

1010, Greater Clark County Schools

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Both quantitative and qualitative research shows that students with routine access to notebook computers score higher in writing assessments, demonstrate better analytical skills, collaborate more, and have lower absenteeism and drop-out rates. Greater Clark County School Corporation (GCCS) proposes a One-to-One Learning Initiative, which involves one student, one computer, one interactive, personalized learning experience in a wireless environment with anytime access to the Internet. This configuration would involve laptops checked out to all students and classroom teachers, grades 6-12, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. During the past 18 months, GCCS has partnered with the City of Charlestown to make this proposal a reality. Charlestown's demographics closely resemble other communities with successful One-to-One Learning Initiatives. In April, the GCCS Board of School Trustees approved a four-year commitment with the Apple Corporation to fund this initiative at Charlestown Senior High School. However, funding has not been secured to allow the implementation of the middle school component. Through this grant GCCS will purchase 32 MacBook Pro laptops for teachers and 652 MacBook Laptops for students. Although the current population of Charlestown Middle School is 544, the additional 108 (20% of 544) laptops are purchased at Apple Computer's request to cover increased enrollment due to the initiative's attraction and to cover replacements during repairs. The goals of the GCCS One-to-One Learning are as follows:

"Improving Student Achievement"

- The overall percentage of students meeting state standards on ISTEP+ will increase by 3% in both English/Language Arts and Mathematics, which is in alignment with our PL221 goals.
- Increase student attendance rate to 97%.
- Reduce classroom semester failures by 10%.

"Advancing Digital Equity"

- 100% of our students/teachers will have access to laptops, which will enhance our 3-year technology plan by giving our students and teachers unlimited use of computers, software, and the Internet.

"Enhancing Teaching and Learning"

- A full-time instructional technologist at each building will research, train, and model instructional best practices.
- A minimum of 30 minutes weekly will be required of each teacher for professional development.
- Teachers will document a minimum of 20% of instructional time weekly utilizing the laptops.
- Classroom disciplinary referrals/teacher temporary dismissals will be reduced by 10%.

The City of Charlestown's goals are to strengthen economic development and education within the community.

- By 2015, 50 new businesses will be established in the city of Charlestown.
- By 2015, the city of Charlestown will establish a technology business park.
- By 2015, the 90% of graduating seniors will apply to higher education.

The One-to-One Learning Initiative provides a unique opportunity to broaden the dimensions by which student success is measured within the classroom. An increase in problem solving, critical thinking, visual and information literacy, communication skills, and teamwork will be measured through project-based assessment. Differentiated instruction through the use of the laptops will enable teachers to better meet the needs of our at-risk subgroups. The One-to-One Learning Initiative will provide new insights into the quality and intensity of student learning.